

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

New Business 6c • Date: August 11, 2025

Request for Permission to Advertise 2026 Budget

Category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources, Personnel/Staffing	<input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance, Budgeting, Accounting	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Policy
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities, Transportation, Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Type of Board of Trustees Consideration Sought:

Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input type="checkbox"/>

Facts of this Matter:

To complete the first phase of the annual budget adoption process, we need the permission of the Board of School Trustees to advertise our proposed budget as required by law.

Accompanying this memo is state Budget Form 3 for the proposed 2026 budget. This notice is required by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). In addition to Form 3, a Bus Replacement Plan and Capital Projects Plan must be submitted to DLGF at least ten days prior to the date of the local school district's annual budget hearing per IC 20-40-18. These forms are not required to be published in a newspaper, but under applicable state statutes and DLGF regulations, they must be submitted to the DLGF for publication by DLGF on its official website as well as published on our own website.

Financial Implications, if any:

Chief Financial Officer, Regina May, will be prepared to discuss all the issues and ramifications of the budget, as well as the budget process itself, in detail at the public hearing on September 8, 2025. Copies of all required state budget forms and documents as well as supplementary explanatory and analytical material will be provided in an executive summary format as a concise budget overview for the Board members and the general public. This material is expected to be delivered to Board members in late August to provide an opportunity to study the proposed budget in detail and formulate any questions about the proposed budget.

It should be noted that the proposed budget, once published, cannot be increased. However, the Board of School Trustees will have the opportunity to reduce the budget as it sees fit as part of the adoption process, as will DLGF. As always, the proposed budget is formulated in such a way as to allow ample room for these reductions to occur.

The proposed budget to be advertised is as consistent as possible with the totals of appropriations, levies, and tax rates for the advertised budget from the prior years while allowing flexibility to meet the ongoing challenges of our growing school district. As we progress through the local adoption and state review and approval process, we are confident that we will be successful in achieving a final set of levies and tax rates that is consistent with our financial goals.

Opinion/Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board of School Trustees authorize the publication of the proposed budget, as well as the proposed Capital Projects Plan and Bus Replacement Plan, as described above. Receipt of

permission to advertise now will allow us to fulfill the legal requirements and deadlines in the law to allow our budget hearing on September 8, 2025.

Suggested Wording for a Motion, if any:

I move to authorize permission to advertise the 2026 budget along with the Bus Replacement and Capital Project Plans as required by law.